

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /130 W

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R 071517Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT PO MOZ

SUBJ: TAUT NERVES IN LISBON OVER MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

SUMMARY: RECENT INCREASE INFRELIMO ACTIVITY IN
MOZAMBIQUE, COUPLED WITH POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS WHICH
CAST DOUBT ON GOP'S DETERMINATION TO HANG ON FOREVER
THERE, HAVE INCREASED APPREHENSION IN BOTH GOVERNMENT
AND PRIVATE CIRCLES THAT THINGS MAY BE FALLING APART.
END SUMMARY.

1. FOCUS OF ATTENTION ON OVERSEAS MATTERS IN LISBON
HAS SHIFTED FROM GUINEA TO MOZAMBIQUE AS A RESULT OF
BOTH MILITARY AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. ON MILITARY
SIDE, MURDER OF FARMER'S WIFE NEAR MANICA (LOURENCO
MARQUES 044), OFFICIALLY ATTRIBUTED TO FRELIMO GUERRILLAS,
AND SUBSEQUENT REACTION OF WHITES IN MOZAMBIQUE HAVE
CAUSED MUCH CONCERN IN LISBON. COMING SOON AFTER
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REPORTEDLY INDISCRIMINATE MASSACRE BY FRELIMO OF

CIVILIANS IN NHACAMBO VILLAGE (LOURENCO MARQUES 030), FARM INCIDENT HAS HEIGHTENED FEARS HERE THAT FRELIMO IS MOVING TOWARD GENUINE TERRORISM. THIS INCIDENT AND ATTACKS ON RAIL LINES IN TETE INDICATE FRELIMO HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF CONSIDERABLY FARTHER SOUTH THAN ONLY A FEW MONTHS AGO.

2. DEMONSTRATIONS ON PART OF WHITES IN BEIRA, VILAPERY AND MANICA IN PROTEST AGAINST ALLEGED LAXITY OF ARMED FORCES HAVE PROVOKED CONCERN THAT SENTIMENT FOR RHODESIAN TYPE SOLUTION, GREATLY FEARED BY PRIME MINISTER CAETANO, MAY ASSUME TROUBLESOME PROPORTIONS. LISBON PRESS HAS GIVEN HEAVY PLAY TO FAVORABLE REACTION OF WHITES IN TROUBLED AREAS TO GOP DECISION PROVIDE THEM WITH ARMS AND RADIO NETWORK.

3. VISIT OF ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL COSTA GOMES TO MOZAMBIQUE (LOURENCO MARQUES 080) SEEN IN LISBON AS SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT SOOTHING NERVES OF MOZAMBIKAN WHITES BY ASSURING THEM THAT GOP IS ATTENTIVE TO THEIR PROBLEMS AT HIGHEST LEVELS AND THAT MILITARY SITUATION BEING REVIEWED BY TOP MAN. ALTHOUGH GOP SOURCES STATE THAT TRIP WAS PLANNED LONG AGO, COSTA GOMES LEFT LISBON WITHOUT PRIOR ANNOUNCEMENT AND WITHIN HOURS OF SWEARING IN OF HIS NEW DEPUTY, GENERAL SPINOLA, AND HIS STAY IN MOZAMBIQUE WAS UNUSUALLY LONG (TWO WEEKS).

4. BOTH MOZAMBIQUE ANP CHIEF MORAI BARBOSA, IN LISBON FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION (HE IS A DEPUTY) AND CABORA BASSA CZAR ENG. CASTRO FONTES RECENTLY EXPRESSED GRAVE CONCERN TO VISITING SOUTH AFRICAN VIP AT THE WAY THINGS WERE GOING IN MOZAMBIQUE. AS AMCONGEN LOURENCO MARQUES HAS REPORTED, THERE IS WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN TO GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE CIRCLES THAT MOZAMBIQUE GOVGEN PIMENTAL DOS SANTOS, SEEN AS INEFFECTUAL IN POLITICAL MATTERS, WILL SOON BE REPLACED BY CASTRO FONTES.

5. CONSERVATIVES IN LISBON HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL TRENDS IN MOZAMBIQUE SINCE
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RECENT VISIT OF OVERSEAS MINISTER REBELLO DE SOUSA TO TERRITORY. MINISTER'S EMPHASIS ON INCREASING PROVINCE'S AUTONOMY HAS UPSET RIGHT WING, ALTHOUGH MINISTER HAS NOT BEEN CRITICIZED PUBLICLY. HOWEVER, CONSERVATIVES IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAVE SEIZED UPON RECENT ACTIVITIES IN LISBON OF JOANA SIMIAO TO EXPRESS THEIR UNHAPPINESS WITH WHAT THEY PERCEIVE AS SHIFT IN GOP POLICY. MISS SIMIAO'S VISIT RECEIVED WIDE PUBLICITY; SUCH

TREATMENT IMPLIES GOP BLESSING; WHICH TROUBLES RIGHT,
SINCE IT IS WELL KNOWN HERE THAT MISS SIMIAO SEEKS
INDEPENDENCE FOR MOZAMBIQUE.

6. DEPUTY MORAIS BARBOSA HAS CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENTS
IN MOZAMBIQUE'S SECURITY APPARATUS, WHILE INSISTING
THAT PORTUGAL'S "PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES NEED NO
REDEFINITION".

7. COMMENT: WE SENSE THAT THE GOP IS BEGINNING TO
FEAR THAT ITS HOLD ON EVENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE MAY BE SLIPPING.
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, ARMED FORCES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS, RAILROADS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON00512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740249/aaaabubm.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TAUT NERVES IN LISBON OVER MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO, MZ, FRELIMO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005